

Your Right to Obtain Your Medical Records in Massachusetts for a Massachusetts Medical Malpractice Case

If you have suffered a serious personal injury at the hand of a physician, one of the first things you need to do is obtain a copy of your medical records. In Massachusetts, medical centers, hospitals and doctors are required to furnish these records upon request. When you make your request, expect to be presented a HIPPA release. Congress enacted the HIPPA law to protect patient confidentiality.

Your medical provider will have a HIPPA form for you to sign. Simply call or visit the office and ask for the authorization form. Be aware that if you request records for an adult family member, that person must sign the authorization form. If you're a parent, you can obtain a child's medical records by signing as the child's "father/mother and next friend." For a deceased patient, only the duly appointed representative of the patient's estate can make a HIPPA request.

What You Are Looking for In the Medical Records

Most hospitals will require you to fill out a form which asks what part of the record you want. You should ask for the "page-by-page" chart. Specify that you want the entire chart. Ask the hospital records staffer to provide you an invoice for the copying costs before you order the chart.

You do not need to provide a reason you are requesting the medical records. Remember that you have a right to the records. The doctor's office should provide the records in a reasonable time. The shorter your hospital stay, the faster the records should be furnished. Consider it a red flag if the medical provider tells you that you must wait a month or longer for the records. You could end up with altered or destroyed records or they could disappear altogether.

A qualified Massachusetts medical malpractice lawyer can help you obtain your medical records. It's important you get the full record because your treatment record is your case.

What Should You Do If You Have A Medical Malpractice Case?

The lawyers at [medical malpractice and personal injury firm of Breakstone, White & Gluck, PC](#) of Boston have decades of years of proven experience helping [medical malpractice](#) victims. Our goal is to help you obtain the results you need to move on with your life.